



City of Gonzales

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Honorable John M. Phillips
Presiding Judge, Coordinated Trial Courts
Post Office Box 1819
Salinas, California 93902

March 13, 2000

RE: 1999 Grand Jury Response

Dear Judge Phillips:

Please accept this response to the findings and recommendations regarding the methamphetamine and other illegal drugs in Monterey County.

1. Law enforcement agencies approach the methamphetamine problem as a distinct entity not related to other drug enforcement activities.

For my more than twenty year law enforcement career in Monterey County, narcotics and other illegal substances have been an issue of concern to all of us. Today, it is Methamphetamine. Yesterday it was cocaine. Before that, heroin and marijuana. As trends go, so do the Popularized "drug of the day". While it is important to address the methamphetamine concern of today by recognizing its ill effects on society and the volatile nature of it's processing, I do not necessarily agree that it should be considered a "distinct entity not related to other drug enforcement activities". All of the aforementioned drugs result in the destruction of families and effect society in the form of increases in crime and violence.

2. Law enforcement agencies be required to submit information concerning all arrests relating to methamphetamine to the press in the form of press releases rather than simply indicating such in the daily activity log.

The Gonzales Police Department provides access to the local press on all of our activities including narcotic related offenses. In many cases when additional information is necessary, the reporters questions are answered in depth by the investigating officer or a supervisor. If a press release is necessary it is common practice to provide the local media with information on any significant event that occurs within the city limits of Gonzales.

3. Law enforcement agencies develop a coordinated communication plan so that methamphetamine information can be effectively shared by all agencies.

Each agency in Monterey County has access to the TRAK system that would be ideal for this recommendation. In addition, we have a county-wide CLETS system that could be utilized.

4. The Board of Supervisors seek the means for funding special methamphetamine abatement personnel and programs.
5. The Board of Supervisors seek the means of funding environmental clean up of legally seized methamphetamine related properties, and execute the resale of such properties as a means of funding increased methamphetamine activities.

Should the Board of Supervisors address these recommendations, the City of Gonzales would support their efforts if funding is made available.

6. The Board of Supervisors and City Councils provide funding for the purchase of a meth-trained canine.
7. The Board of Supervisors and City Councils provide funding for the training and placement of more meth-qualified deputies in the field.

I believe the addition of a meth-trained canine could have it's benefits. A canine trained to detect narcotics certainly has proved its usefulness throughout the country. I am at somewhat of a loss however that the recommendations include the City Councils along with the Board of Supervisors provide the funding. I believe most it meth-labs" are found in the unincorporated areas of this county. While some select cities may experience a meth-lab here and there, they exist predominately in the unincorporated areas of the county. If the Board of Supervisors and City Councils agree to fund this joint venture, I would hope the incorporated cities in the county would share the benefit of the meth-trained deputies without additional cost to the citizens in the event a meth-lab be located within a city limits.



R. Green
Chief of Police
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